

MAURICE - Manual on Universal and Outbreak Infection Prevention Control for the ECOWAS Region



**HOSPITAL
PARTNERSHIPS**

Robert Koch Institute and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Disease Control

The challenge

During the Ebola crisis, the importance of infection prevention and control (IPC) and the need to strengthen the capacities of health care workers became widely evident. There is a large gap between the knowledge and the practice of health care workers regarding IPC in an outbreak situation.

In Nigeria, while non-communicable diseases are gaining in importance, communicable diseases remain the greater challenge for the health care system. Every year outbreaks of diseases such as cerebrospinal meningitis, cholera, measles and Lassa fever are reported and hospital acquired infections transmission of infectious diseases occurs. Nigeria also ranks among the countries with the highest child and maternal mortality rates.

Patient safety and quality improvement initiatives are failing to gain ground due to unfocused stakeholder agendas, infrastructure constraints, limited resources, and the lack of capacity for implementing improvements.

In 2013, the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health published the National Infection Prevention and Control Policy and Strategy. This forms part of the national initiative to guide joint efforts across the entire healthcare system to prevent and control infectious diseases in health care settings and communities. Many strategies have been put in place, but implementation still remains a challenge.

Partnership activities

The main goal of the partnership is the improvement of patient safety during outbreaks of epidemic-prone diseases in Nigeria.

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) will form a multi-stakeholder working group with the aim of developing a manual on universal and outbreak infection prevention and control. The basis

for the manual will be a thorough review of strategies, policies, scientific literature and the best practices of other public health institutions.

Health care workers from two pilot states, Lagos and Nasarawa, will be trained as supervisors for using the manual in practice.

'The cooperation between NCDC and RKI on the improvement of infection prevention and control in outbreak situations is timely.'

Prof. Isaac Adewole, Honourable Nigerian Federal Minister of Health

After implementation, the manual will be monitored for the following eight months with the support of state epidemiologists. To assess its acceptability and usefulness and to identify obstacles, operational research will be carried out during at least two outbreaks (for example in the form of key informant interviews, questionnaires and focus group discussions). The recommendations of the research report will then be integrated into the final draft of the manual. Experiences gained will be disseminated on the institutions' websites to ensure that the benefits of the measure are sustainable and supraregional.



NCDC staff members combat a cholera outbreak in Borno State, Nigeria © Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)



Federal Ministry
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and Development



Financing

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Results

- The project aims to improve the safety of patients and health care workers during outbreaks of epidemic-prone diseases by producing a manual on universal and outbreak infection prevention and control.
- It also seeks to strengthen the capacity of health care workers in the prevention of infectious diseases, generally and in outbreak situations.
- Experiences of improved prevention of infectious diseases generally and in outbreaks of epidemic-prone diseases are shared nationally and internationally

The partners

The initiative is the first collaboration between the RKI and the NCDC and hence provides a fresh platform for learning experiences on both sides.

Institution in Nigeria

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control was established in 2011 in response to the challenges of public health and is a parastatal institution under the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health. It serves as the Nigerian National Public Health Institute. Its goals include forming a public health laboratory service network, reducing the adverse impact of predictable and unpredicted public health emergencies, and creating an efficiently managed and evidence-based organisation with a clear focus on health promotion and disease prevention.

The Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) established the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Disease Surveillance and Control (ECOWAS-RCDC) in 2015 as a pan-African network of regional Centres for Disease Control. The RCDC is currently being hosted by the NCDC in Abuja.

Institution in Germany

The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) is a federal institute within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Health and is the central institution of the Federal Government in the field of disease monitoring and prevention, and in the field of applied and action-oriented biomedical research. The RKI's main tasks are the identification, prevention and control of diseases, including infectious diseases.

Overview

Name	MAURICE - Manual on Universal and Outbreak Infection Prevention Control	
Impact	Improvement of patient and health care worker safety during outbreaks of epidemic-prone diseases through the national protocol	
Countries	Nigeria	Germany
Cities	Abuja	Berlin
Institutions	Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, Regional Centre for Disease Surveillance and Control of the ECOWAS	Robert Koch Institute
Term	July 2017 – April 2019	
Budget	111.900 EURO	

Contact person for the partnership

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